

## CLAIMS

1.     Prepacked serving of coffee powder, particularly for an espresso coffee making machine, comprising a cartridge (1; 2; 3) enclosing a given portion of coffee powder (40), the said cartridge (1; 2; 3) comprising an essentially cylindrical side wall (101; 102; 103) provided at its two ends with a first wall (201; 202; 203) designed to be acted upon by the pressurized hot-water supply means, and with a second wall (301; 302; 303) designed to be acted upon by the brewed coffee dispensing means, the said cartridge (1; 2; 3) being made of an essentially airtight material, and the said wall (301; 302; 303) being continuous and made of a thermoplastic material.

2.     Prepacked serving according to Claim 1, in which the said first wall is provided with predetermined fracture areas (221; 213, 223; 243) to facilitate the action of the pressurized hot-water supply means.

3.     Prepacked serving according to Claim 2, in which the said predetermined fracture areas comprise incisions (221) that intersect on the axis of the said cartridge (1).

4.     Prepacked serving according to Claim 2, in which the said predetermined fracture areas comprise thin areas (213) formed around the outer edges of the reliefs (243) which project from the said wall (203) and whose height decreases towards one end.

5.     Prepacked serving according to Claim 2, in which the said predetermined fracture areas comprise a thin area (222) located approximately on the axis of the said cartridge (2), surrounded by a plurality of radial stiffening ribs (212) formed on the said wall (202).

6.     Prepacked serving according to any one of the previous Claims 1 to 5,

in which the said first wall (501) is provided with diffusion means (511) for diffusing the flow of hot water.

7.      Prepacked serving according to any one of the previous Claims 1 to 6, in which the said second wall (301; 302) is provided with channelling means (311; 312) for channelling the flow of brewed coffee.

8.      Dispensing unit, particularly for an espresso coffee making machine, which unit can be used with a prepacked serving according to any one of the previous claims 1 to 7, the unit comprising pressurized hot-water supply means (21, 22; 24; 27; 28), a brewing chamber (31) and dispensing means (32, 33, 34; 38) for dispensing the brewed coffee, which unit is characterised in that the said dispensing means comprise perforating means (34, 38) for forming at least one hole (321) in that wall of the cartridge (1; 2; 3) of the said serving which faces the said means, the lips of the said hole (321) forming a seal around the said perforating means (34, 38) until a defined pressure has built up inside the said cartridge (1; 2; 3).

9.      Dispensing unit according to Claim 8, in which the said perforating means (34; 38) are located on the back wall of the brewing chamber (31) where there is a dispensing manifold (32) communicating with the dispensing pipe (33).

10.     Dispensing unit according to Claim 8 or 9, in which the said supply means comprise at least one mouth means (22; 24; 27) for breaking through that wall (201; 202; 501; 701) of the said cartridge (1; 2) which faces the said supply means.